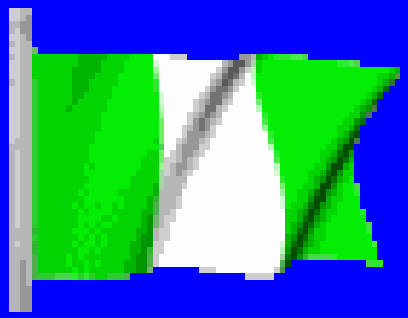
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



NIGERIA

Federal Republic of Nigeria

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Federal Republic of Nigeria

Capital: Abuja

Population: 113,828,587 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: Pres Olusegun OB

Official language(s) English, Hausa, Yor

Economy: oil and agriculture based capitalist economy

Religions: Islam (50%), Christian (40%), Indigenous (10%)

TRAVEL

[illegible] INFORMATION

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Lagos

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: 2 Eleke Crescent, Victoria Island, Lagos

Tel: 234-1-261-0050 FAX: 234-1-610-443

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor. Avoid all public tra

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Roads are generally in poor condition, causing damage to vehicles and contributing to hazardous traffic conditions. Excessive speed, unpredictable driving habits, and the lack of basic maintenance and safety equipment on many vehicles are additional hazards. There are few traffic lights or stop signs.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities Passports are required for all travelers, including aircrew members. For official travel, no-fee passports are required. Advance notification is required by Amembassy/USDAO for all military personnel who desire leave travel in Nigeria. Military personnel on leave require military ID card, leave orders, passport, and visas. (See Section II, para E.6.) NOTE: Under no circumstances should US citizens travel to Nigeria without a valid visa. An invitation to enter Nigeria without a visa is normally indicative of illegal activity. US citizens cannot legally depart Nigeria unless they can prove, by presenting their entry visas, that they entered Nigeria legally. Personnel will contact USDAO on arrival in country. Local address, telephone number and contact point Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. Quarantine official inspects General Declaration Form, passenger manifest, and immunization records.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: (include jewelry), portable typewriter, cigarette lighter, electric razor, 0.5 pound of cigars or 200 cigarettes and 0.5 pound of tobacco or 0.5

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the dangers of travel to Nigeria. Nigeria has limited tourist facilities and conditions pose considerable risks to travelers.Request lodging l0-l4 days in advance. Major hotels in Lagos require advance deposit to secure reservations. Provide fund cite or fiscal data and individual names to embassy/USDAO to obtain advance reservations. All hotels require 24-hour notice of cancellation. In some cases, prepaid deposit is forfeited. Cameras arouse concern. Limit photography to athletic and cultural events. Photography may offend local nationals; permission is usually requested and a gratuity offered before taking photos. Photography of public facilities such as airports, bridges, military installations, ports, harbors, and public buildings is strictly forbidden. Such photography will result in arrest and possibly subject the photographer to physical harm. Police license is required for

Amembassy operating hours are Mon-Fri, 0730L-1600L. In event of an emergency, phone the Marine security guard who

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Declare all currency, including travelers checks. A reasonable amount of foreign exchange may be imported provided it is properly declared and exchanged only thru authorized exchange facilities. Credit cards are rarely accepted outside of major hotels. Due to the prevalence of credit card fraud in Nigeria and credit card fraud by Nigerians in the US, credit card use is generally ill-advised. It is usually necessary to bring sufficient travelers checks and/or currency to cover the expenses of a planned visit. The Embassy does not know of any bank that cashes travelers checks. American Express does not have a office in Nigeria, although Thomas Cooks does. Interbank transfers are often difficult, if not impossible to accomplish. For further information, visitors may wish to contact the Amembassy Currency can be exchanged at major banks and Bureau de Changes. Several Bureau de Changes are located within airport terminal at Lagos. Upon presentation of their travel orders, government employees on official visits may exchange US currency at

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs,

Availability of medical services: Poor.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Nigeria. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: AIDS and hepatitis-B exist in Nigeria and present risks from transfusions and sexual contacts. Malaria suppressant, gamma globulin, and inoculations for typhoid and tetanus are recommended by Amembassy. Meningitis inoculation is recommended if traveling to northern Nigeria during Jan thru May. Nigeria is considered a cholera and yellow fever-infected area. Travelers to Nigeria should take anti-malaria chloroquine two weeks prior to arrival (but no

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, meningococcal vaccine, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Nigeria. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Boil water and use canned or dried milk. Wash fruits and cook vegetables. Eat at recommended places. Use of public transportation throughout Nigeria, including taxis, is dangerous and should be avoided. Nigerian airlines have aging fleets, and the U.S. Embassy in Lagos is concerned that maintenance and operational procedures may be inadequate to ensure passenger safety. Nigeria has experienced civil unrest, violence and strikes. Locations where outbreaks of violence have occurred include the Lagos area, southwestern Nigeria, the oil-producing states in the southeast, and Kaduna state. There has been an increase in the number of unauthorized vehicle checkpoints. These checkpoints are operated by armed bands of police, soldiers, or bandits. Reports of threats against firms and foreigners associated

FORCE PROTECTION

The rainy season from May to October is especially dangerous because of flooded roads. Night driving should be avoided for several reasons. Bandits and police roadblocks are more numerous at night. Streets are very poorly lit and many vehicles are missing one or both headlights. Chronic fuel shortages have led to long lines at service stations which have disrupted or even blocked traffic for extended periods. Public transportation vehicles are both unsafe and overcrowded. Passengers in local taxis have been driven to secluded locations where they are attacked and robbed. The Embassy advises that public transportation throughout Nigeria is dangerous and should be avoided. Due to a lack of effective security measures, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation has ordered that direct air services between the U.S. and the Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos be suspended. In addition, Nigerian airlines have aging fleets and limited technical capabilities and face serious financial difficulties. As recently as mid-1998 there were reports of problems with the quality of aviation fuel throughout the country despite

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Violent crime against foreigners is a serious problem, especially in Lagos and the southern half of Nigeria. Violent crime, committed by persons in police and military uniforms, as well as by ordinary criminals, is an acute problem throughout the country. Visitors and resident Americans report armed muggings, assaults, burglary, kidnappings, carjackings and extortion, often involving violence. Carjackings, roadblock robberies and armed break-ins occur often; assailants sometimes shoot victims for no apparent reason. Law enforcement authorities usually respond to crimes slowly, if at all, and provide little or no investigative support to victims. While tighter security measures have largely eliminated the danger of pickpockets and con artists inside Murtala Muhammed Airport, such persons are still commonly found outside the terminal building in the parking lot. Business, charity and other scams target foreigners

Nigeria is strict on: Drugs. Those arrested routinely face prolonged detention before trial, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and fines

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Transient personnel may wear uniform for stays up to 24 hours; after 24-hour period must wear civilian clothing. TDY personnel are required to wear civilian clothing. Uniform may be worn only by crews of transit aircraft. Crews leaving airport must wear civilian clothing.

Lightweight tropical clothing is recommended.

CURRENT EVENTS

Due to security concerns within the city of Lagos, Embassy employees must notify the Embassy in advance before leaving Victoria, Ikoyi, and Lagos Islands on the city's coast, where the Embassy and Embassy residences are located. In addition, the Embassy advises its employees against visiting Lagos Island or mainland Lagos after dark. Embassy employees are required to travel in armored vehicles between the islands and Murtala Mohammed International Airport, and when traveling to the airport at night, Embassy policy requires that they be

In the oil-producing region of the Niger River Delta, incidents of U.S. citizens and other foreigners being held hostage for ransom are becoming increasingly frequent. As a matter of policy, the United States Government will not pay ransom or make other concessions to kidnappers; therefore, the U.S. Embassy's ability to assist U.S. citizens taken hostage may be limited. U.S. citizens who are resident in this area should review their employer's security information and contingency plans.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

NIGERIA